

CLEAN VERSION OF EACH REPLACEMENT SECTION/CLAIMIn the Specification

In the Summary, please delete the text beginning at page 5 and extending through page 7.

Page 8 please replace the paragraph which begins at line 7 and extends to line 8 as follows.

B 1 ~~FIGURE 2~~ shows a cross-sectional view of a portion of the personal care article taken at line 2-2 of FIGURE 1.

Page 9 please replace the paragraph which begins at line 14 and extends to line 18 as follows.

B 2 ~~First~~ lateral section 28 includes an inner portion 36A having an inner edge 39A, and an outer portion 37A having an outer edge 38A. Inner portion 36A of first lateral section 28 comprises a fastener 31A affixed at or near inner edge 39A, closer to the X-axis than to outer edge 38A, and wherein at least a portion of fastener 31A overlaps inner edge 39A to provide a cooperative engagement relationship with fastener-receptive area 56.

Page 9 please replace the paragraph which begins at line 19 and extends to line 23 as follows.

B 3 ~~Similarly~~, second lateral section 29 includes an inner portion 36B having an inner edge 39B, and an outer portion 37B having an outer edge 38B. Inner portion 36B of second lateral section 29 also comprises a fastener 31B affixed at or near inner edge 39B, closer to the X-axis than to outer edge 38B, and wherein at least a portion of fastener 31B overlaps inner edge 39B to provide a cooperative engagement relationship with fastener-receptive area 56.

Page 11 please replace the paragraph which begins at line 8 and extends to line 14 as follows.

B4  
FIGURES 1, 3, and 4 illustrate attachment of lateral sections 28 and 29 to front portion 20 at attachment sites 46. Two attachment sites 46 are illustrated on outer portions 37A and 37B of respective lateral sections 28 and 29, adjacent respective side edges 23 and 25 of front portion 20, outer portions 37A and 37B being disposed outwardly of respective fasteners 31A and 31B, toward outer edges 38A and 38B. The primary purpose of attachment sites 46 is to control lay of the respective outer portions of the lateral sections against front portion 20 so as to assist in forming side seams as at 63 and 65 between back portion 40 and the respective lateral sections. A/

Page 11 please replace the paragraph which begins at line 28 and extends to line 32 as follows.

B5  
SUB 20 Referring to FIGURE 1, attachment sites 46 should be located just inwardly of, but adjacent, side edges 23 and 25 of front portion 20, relative to the X-axis. As illustrated in FIGURES 1, 3, and 4, lateral portions 28, 29 are free from attachment to the front portion between fasteners 31A and 31B and areas adjacent side edges 23 and 25. Attachment sites 46 should be designed and constructed so that the attachment sites can be easily broken to enable adjusting the size of personal care article 10 to the size of the wearer, as desired. A/

Page 12 please replace the paragraph which begins at line 15 and extends to line 28 as follows.

B6  
SUB 31 FIGURES 4 and 5 illustrate another embodiment of the invention, wherein personal care article 10 uses temporary attachment of the first and second lateral sections 28 and 29 to front portion 20, as well as to each other. In this embodiment, first and second lateral sections 28 and 29 are joined to each other by a line of weakness 45 when assembled into the personal care article. Line of weakness 45 can comprise, for example, a line or lines of weakness which, when broken, define inner edges 39A and 39B (FIGURE 4) which generally correspond to inner edges 39A and 39B of FIGURES 1 and 3. Line of weakness 45 is designed and

B6  
CONT

constructed to be readily broken, but only if and when desired by a wearer or caregiver. *12-25-76*

Page 13 please replace the paragraph which begins at line 9 and extends to line 11 as follows.

B7

*As* in the previous embodiments, first and second lateral sections 28 and 29 of personal care article 10 are attached to front portion 20 of the personal care article by using releasable bond sites 46. *W*

Page 13 please replace the paragraph which begins at line 12 and extends to line 19 as follows.

B8

*Now* referring back to FIGURE 2, each of first and second lateral sections 28 and 29 can be formed from a single layer of, e.g., web material or can comprise two or more layers generally bonded together so as to co-act as a unitary element. When the first and second lateral sections comprise two or more layers, inner layer 48, which is disposed toward the wearer's body, is preferably soft, and liquid-permeable. Outer layer 49, disposed outwardly of the wearer's body, from layer 48, is preferably liquid-impermeable. In some embodiments first and second lateral sections 28 and 29 are liquid-permeable and are constructed from soft material such as non-wovens. *W*

Please replace the paragraph which begins at page 13 line 32 and extends to page 14 line 5 as follows.

B 964-5

*As* illustrated in the respective FIGURES, elastic strands 52 provide first and second lateral sections 28 and 29 with extendible properties. Alternatively, first and second lateral sections 28 and 29 can be formed from a material which exhibits or can be modified to exhibit elastic properties. Elastic strands 52 can be formed from, e.g., rubber, polyurethane, styrene butylene styrene copolymer, styrene ethylene butylene styrene copolymer, or other elastomeric materials. A typical material is LYCRA spandex which is commercially available from E.I. Du Pont De Nemours and Company, Wilmington, Delaware. *W*

Page 15 please replace the paragraph which begins at line 1 and extends to line 11 as follows.

B10 ~~W~~In the embodiment illustrated in FIGURE 2, inner portions 36A and 36B of first and second lateral sections 28 and 29 are releasably fastened to front portion 20 by fasteners 31A and 31B. In FIGURES 1 and 2, fastener-receptive area 56 on front portion 20, and fasteners 31A and 31B on the lateral sections, cooperate to fasten inner portions 36A and 36B of the lateral sections to front portion 20. As previously discussed, front portion 20 can be constructed from a material which has fastener-receptive properties. In the alternative, a separate piece of landing zone material can be secured in the front portion to provide such fastener-receptive properties to the front portion so as to enable cooperative fastening of corresponding first and second lateral sections 28 and 29 to front portion 20 using fastening techniques discussed herein.

Page 15 please replace the paragraph which begins at line 18 and extends to line 22 as follows.

B11 ~~W~~In FIGURES 3 and 4, elastics have been illustratively omitted from the portions of the lateral sections 28 and 29 which overlie the front portion of the absorbent article, to clarify locations of article components, e.g. attachment sites 46. Although elastics are not specifically illustrated in lateral sections 28 and 29 of FIGURES 3 and 4, such lateral sections are to be understood to comprise any herein described material or composite for constructing lateral sections 28 and 29.

Page 21 please replace the paragraph which begins at line 13 and extends to line 25 as follows.

B12 ~~W~~The high-absorbency material in absorbent core 96 can be selected from natural, synthetic and modified natural polymers and materials. The high absorbency materials can be inorganic materials, such as silica gels, or organic compounds, such as cross-linked polymers. The high absorbency materials refer to any structure or composition, along with associated process, which renders normally water-soluble materials

B12 substantially water insoluble but swellable, whereby absorbent properties are available but the swelled material is substantially immobile after absorbing water-based liquids. Such superabsorbent material can be fabricated by creating e.g. physical entanglement, crystalline domains, covalent bonds, ionic complexes and associations, hydrophilic associations such as hydrogen bonding, and hydrophobic associations, or Van der Waals forces. Two such superabsorbents are DRYTECH 2035 M superabsorbent and FAVOR SXM 880 superabsorbent. DRYTECH superabsorbent is available from Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Michigan. FAVOR superabsorbent is available from Stockhausen, Inc., Greensboro, North Carolina.

Page 25, please delete the entire paragraph which extends from line 1 to line 3.

Page 32 please replace the abstract which begins at line 1 and extends to line 14 as follows.

~~ABSTRACT~~ ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

B13 A personal care article having a front portion, first and second lateral sections having inner edges releasably fastened to the front portion and first and second outer portions attached to the front portion, a back portion, and a crotch portion between the front portion and back portions. Outer edges of the first and second lateral sections are secured to third and fourth side edges of the back portion to form a pant-like article. Strength of the attachment of the outer portions of the lateral sections to the front portion is less than strength of securement of the outer edges of the lateral sections to the back portion, whereby the attachments of the outer portions of the lateral sections to the front portion can be separated from the front portion without separating securement of the first and second lateral sections from the side edges of the back portion.

In the Claims